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DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY

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THE Museums Association of Pakistan

AIMS AND OBJECTS

An association of museums for India was founded a few years before partition of the sub-continent for ameliorating the condition of the existing museums in the country. An urgent need was felt to start a parallel association for Pakistan after the division of the country. It was on April 10 1949, that the Museums Association of Pakistan was constituted which has been functioning in right earnest since then.

Pakistan is fortunately the cradle of earliest civilisation. The abundance of pre-historic and proto-historic material in artistry, craftsmanship and minerals have made Pakistan the centre of attraction for other nations of the world. It therefore became all the more necessary for us to make sure that Pakistan's distinguished material heritage is systematically safeguarded and adequately understood. This will not only educate the public but bring into focus all the available data for various aspects of our national reconstruction. It is in this field that museums in Pakistan

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play their full role and attain international fame for preserving and displaying its rich heritage.

Taking into consideration the above facts the Museums Association of Pakistan included the following aims and objects in its Constitution :

- (1) To advance the cause and improve the work of museums in Pakistan and to extend their usefulness.
- (2) To establish close contact with universities, educational and service institutions.
- (3) To open new museums at important towns in the Dominion.
- (4) To provide facilities for training of curators.
- (5) To establish an archaeological laboratory, and
- (6) To popularise museum movement in the country by adopting the following means :—
 - (a) To start a travelling museum fully equipped with cinematograph films of various cultures represented by museums of Pakistan.

- (b) To hold exhibitions.
- (c) To deliver a series of lectures on museum subjects, and
- (d) To publish literature for free distribution relating to museums in Pakistan.

It was decided at the inaugural session of the Association held at Peshawar on April 10, 1949, to form Regional Sub-Committees for the purpose of (i) raising funds for the Association, (ii) devising ways and means of interesting the public in the museum movement of the Dominion, (iii) considering and reporting to the Association on local museum problems.

With a view to achieve the above purposes the following six Regional Sub-Committees were constituted.—

- (1) For the N.-W. F. P. and Frontier States.
- (2) For the Punjab and Bahawalpur State.
- (3) For Sind and Khairpur State.
- (4) For Baluchistan and Kalat State.
- (5) For East Bengal, and
- (6) For the Federal Capital.

To popularise the museum movement of the Dominion among the public, it was also decided in the first meeting of the Association to publish a pamphlet dealing with the useful services the museums in the Dominion are rendering to the community. In order to create public interest such a pamphlet must bring home to every individual in the country the fact how far the educational, industrial and scientific progress of the nation depends on the material collected and displayed by such cultural institutions.

It is just possible that some people may not understand how museums can add to the sum of human knowledge or how they can contribute to the development of art, science and industry in the country. It is for the benefit of this class of people that the following examples are quoted:

- 1 Suppose you want to know something about the Jama Masjid of Delhi or of the Taj at Agra and that you are not able to visit either of these places; if models of these buildings are exhibited in a museum of your town, you can easily learn a good deal about them in a few minutes which otherwise could not be possible.

2. If students from Peshawar or Lahore want to study the five thousand years old culture of the Sind Valley, evidently it is

difficult for them either to visit the excavated cities at Mohenjodaro or Harappa or study voluminous reports about them. On the other hand, if a few objects from these sites are displayed in a local museum or a model of their few buildings is exhibited there, students can learn much from them in a short time.

3. You might have read about the Indian invasion of Alexander of Macedonia. You might also have read that thirty-three Indo-Greek kings have ruled over greater part of Western Pakistan. If you see the coins of these rulers, exhibited in the museums of Peshawar, Taxila and Lahore, they would present to you a complete historical picture of that period. You are in a better position to study the features of these rulers, their dress, their ornaments, etc., which are clearly depicted on their coins. Not only that but these coins display the mastery and perfection which the artist of that period attained in drawing portraits.

4. Suppose you want to establish a paper mill and require information about it. If there is an up-to-date industrial museum in your town you can learn a good deal about it in a few hours.

5. If you want to know about the mineral resources of your country, it is the *museum* where such specimens are exhibited which

can satisfy you and add to your knowledge.

The above few instances might have revealed the usefulness of museum institutions in the country and you might decide to join the movement started by the Museums Association of Pakistan and patronise it by accepting one of the following types of it memberships :

- (1) Ordinary Member by paying annual subscription of Rs. 12/-
- (2) Institutional Member by paying annual subscription of ... Rs. 20/-
- (3) Associate Member by paying annual subscription of Rs. 5/-
- (4) Life Member by paying only
Rs. 100/-

PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERS.

- (i) *Ordinary Members* of the Association shall receive all publications of the Association free.

They shall be entitled to vote at all General Meetings of the Association.

They shall be entitled to have access to the library and other collections of the Association.

- (ii) *Institutional Members* of the Association shall have the privileges of an Ordinary Member, but shall be entitled to two votes at all General Meetings of the Association.
 - (iii) *Associate Members* of the Association shall not receive publications of the Association free, but shall be entitled to a single vote at all General Meetings of the Association.
 - (iv) *Life Members* of the Association shall have all the privileges of an Ordinary Member, but shall be entitled to two votes at all General Meetings.
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APPLICATION FORM

THE MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF PAKISTAN

To

The Secretary,
Museums Association of Pakistan,
Victoria Memorial Hall, Peshawar.

Sir,

I desire to become an Ordinary/Institutional Associate or a Life Member of the *MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF PAKISTAN*. I am interested in the *MUSEUM MOVEMENT* of the Dominion and enclose the sum Rs.....

Name.....

Designation

Address

Dated 195 .

✓ Approved by the Council

President.

Note :- Cheques and Money Orders should be crossed and made out to *The Museums Association of Pakistan*, Victoria Memorial Hall, Peshawar.



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